Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Upper Arkansas WS - Cropland/Water Quality/Quantit

Program:	**Ranking Date:**	**Application Number:**
Ranking Tool: Upper Arkansas WS - Cropland/Water Quality/Quantit		**Applicant:**
Final Ranking Score:		**Address:**
Planner:		**Telephone:**
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes O or No O
1. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body?	Yes O or No O
1. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a water body?	Yes O or No O
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Increase groundwater recharge in identified groundwater depletion areas (http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html)?	Yes O or No O
2. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and result in estimated water savings of at least 5% and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	Yes O or No O
2. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes O or No O
Clean Air: Treatment of Air Quality from Agricultural Sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
3. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes O or No O
3. b. Reduce green house gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC)?	Yes O or No O
3. c. Increase carbon sequestration?	Yes O or No O
High Quality, Productive Soils Erosion Reduction - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
4. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes O or No O
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
5. a. Benefit threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	Yes O or No O
5. b. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	Yes O or No O
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Special Environmental Efforts/Initiatives - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
6. a. Eradicate or control noxious or invasive species?	Yes O or No O
6. b. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?	Yes O or No O
6. c. Implement precision agricultural methods?	Yes O or No O
6. d. Properly dispose of animal carcasses?	Yes O or No O
6. e. Implement an Integrated Pest Management plan?	Yes O or No O
Energy Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
7. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	Yes O or No O

7. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with more efficient equipment?	Yes O or No O
7. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that reduce emissions from GHGs and air pollutants?	Yes O or No O
Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
8. a. Implementation of all planned conservation practices within three years of contract obligation?	Yes O or No O
8. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted, or will complete an existing conservation system?	Yes O or No O
Does the applicant meet the following conditions:	
9. a. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	Yes O or No O
9. b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	Yes O or No O
9. c. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?	Yes O or No O

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Will the project reduce the amount of nutrients/pesticides/salt/selenium or other pollutants entering ground or surface waters?	Yes O or No O
2. Will the planned practice(s) promote water conservation on the contracted acres?	Yes O or No O
3. Does the project increase the diversity of desirable plants on grazing lands?	Yes O or No O
4. Does the project improve the health of riparian and/or wetland areas?	Yes O or No O
5. Does the project improve habitat for a wildlife species currently categorized as a State or Federal T&E species, Federal Candidate or Proposed species, or State Species of Concern?	Yes O or No O
6. Will the planned practice(s) reduce irrigation induced or streambank erosion?	Yes O or No O

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is there a current COMPLETE resource management (RMS) conservation plan in place?	Yes O or No O
2. If application is funded, will this be the applicant's first EQIP contract for this resource issue?	Yes O or No O
3. Nutrient Management: Does the conservation treatment include new, improved, or enhanced application of nutrient management on at least 75% of the offered acres?	Yes O or No O
4. Nutrient Management: If Question 4 is "yes" will biosolid applications, including manure be made to land base at least 2 out of every 5 years with BMP's specifically to address the proper management of the biosolids?	Yes O or No O
5. Is an on-farm subsurface/surface drainage system OR renovation to an existing on-farm subsurface/surface drainage system needed on at least 10% of the offered acres?	Yes O or No O
6. Does the conservation treatment include practice implementation such as use of polyacrylamides to reduce sediment transport and irrigation-induced erosion?	Yes O or No O
7. Multiple Environmental Impact: Does the conservation treatment include the installation of practices that improve and enhance wildlife habitat as a part of the overall operation of the agricultural enterprise, including invasive species control?	Yes O or No O
Identification of important and significant targeted resource areas of special emphasis and concern. (Answer only one, 8a-8c, yes, if applicable)	
8. a. Are the offered acres located within the area of a Section 319, PL-566 Land Treatment Area or Bureau of Reclamation Water Conservation Project area, or other special targeted project initiative?	Yes O or No O
8. b. Are the offered acres located in one of the Arkansas River Water Divisions or the Upper South Platte representing the irrigated mountain meadow reaches and identified by aging infrastructure including points of diversion and conveyance systems?	Yes O or No O
8. c. Are the offered acres not located within any of the above, but located within the confines of the groundwater alluvium of the Arkansas hydrologic basin?	Yes O or No O
Identification of the site specific resource concerns associated with excessive soil salinity. (Answer only one, 9a-9d, yes, if applicable)	

9. a. Have any saline/sodic conditions of the offered acres been documented based on either a grided georeferenced salinity survey or on laboratory tests using stratified random sampling where the strata selection is based on factors such as, but not limited to crop appearance difference, or salt accumulation on the soil surface.?	Yes O or No O
9. b. Have any saline/sodic conditions of the offered acres been documented based on laboratory tests where samples a. were taken in a problem area based on factors such as, but not limited to crop appearance differences, or salt accumulation on the soil surface and compared to a non-affected area?	Yes O or No O
9. c. Have any saline/sodic conditions of the offered acres been documented based on a routine laboratory soil test?	Yes O or No O
9. d. Is there a likelihood that a saline/sodic conditions exist on the offered acres based on crop appearance differences, or salt accumulation on the soil surface?	Yes O or No O
Conservation treatment that will be implemented that results in on-farm improved irrigation efficiency. Points are based on the relative improvement in the irrigation efficiency from the benchmarkand the planned condition using the USDA-NRCS Farm Irrigation Rating Index (FIRI). The relative improvement is equal to the difference between the benchmark FIRI and planned FIRI divided by the benchmark FIRI.	
10. a. Is the improvement in the system relative efficiency (%) on the offered acres relative to the benchmark >0 but < 15?	Yes O or No O
10. b. Is the improvement in the system relative efficiency (%) on the offered acres relative to the benchmark =>15 but <30?	Yes O or No O
10. c. Is the improvement in the system relative efficiency (%) on the offered acres relative to the benchmark =>30 but <50?	Yes O or No O
10. d. Is the improvement in the system relative efficiency (%) on the offered acres relative to the benchmark =>50 but <75?	Yes O or No O
10. e. Is the improvement in the system relative efficiency (%) on the offered acres relative to the benchmark =>75 but <100?	Yes O or No O
10. f. Is the improvement in the system relative efficiency (%) on the offered acres relative to the benchmark =>100?	Yes O or No O
Conservation treatment that will be implemented associated with land-use conversion from irrigated to non-irrigated,	
11. a. Will there be >0 but <=25% of the offered acres converted to permanent vegetative cover?	Yes O or No O
11. b. Will there be >25% but <=50% of the offered acres converted to permanent vegetative cover?	Yes O or No O
11. c. Will there be >50% but <=75 of the offered acres converted to permanent vegetative cover?	Yes O or No O
11. d. Will there be >75% of the offered acres converted to permanent vegetative cover?	Yes O or No O
Conservation treatment for implementing conservation practices associated with existing certified organic operations and transition organic operations. (Answer only one, 12a-12b, yes, if applicable)	
12. a. Does the proposed project support organic transition (farming operation to be used while transitioning from conventional to organic production)?	Yes O or No O
12. b. Does the proposed project support existing certified organic production and the implementation of an Organic System Plan (OSP)?	Yes O or No O
Conservation treatment implemented off-farm that contributes to the overall improved irrigation efficiency. (Choose all that apply)	
13. a. Will the conservation treatment include actions that improve the conveyance efficiency of the delivery system to the farm, including cooperative projects?	Yes O or No O
13. b. Is an off-farm subsurface/surface drainage system OR renovation to an existing off-farm subsurface/surface drainage system needed?	Yes O or No O
Alternative & Renewable Energy. (Choose all that apply)	
14. a. Has at least one question in the National Priority ranking section been answered “yes,” AND is the proposed project located in an area where the Wind Power Class or its verified equivalence is at least 3, AND will the wind turbine power plant serve as an alternative to an existing, fossil fuel dependent power source?	Yes O or No O
14. b. Has at least one question in the National Priority ranking section been answered “yes,” AND is the proposed project located in an area where the Photovoltaic array has full exposure to full sunlight, AND	Yes O or No O

will the solar power plant serve as an alternative to an existing, fossil fuel dependent power source?	
14. c. Has at least one question in the National Priority ranking section been answered "yes," AND will the proposed project include the installation of a hydro-micro water pumping system to serve as an alternative to an existing, fossil fuel dependent power source?	Yes O or No O

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices

Ranking Score

Efficiency:

Local Issues:

State Issues:

National Issues:

Final Ranking Score:

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative: **Signature Date:**	**Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:** **Signature Date:**